

REMARKS

Claims 17, 19 – 23, 25 – 30, 33 and 34 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 17 and 20-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Debely (U.S. Pat. No. 4,384,232) in view of Staudte (U.S. Pat. No. 3,683,213). Claims 23, 26-29 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Debely in view of Staudte and further in view of Nakamura (U.S. Pat. No. 4,223,177). Claims 23, 26, 27, 30 and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Debely and Staudte and further in view of Curran, et al.. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,423,700). Claim 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Debely and Staudte and further in view of Kikushima (U.S. Pat. No. 5,912,592). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Notwithstanding, in order to expedite prosecution of the present application, claim 17 is amended to recite the allowable subject matter of claim 18. Similarly, claim 23 is amended to recite the subject matter of allowable claim 24. Claims 31 and 32 are cancelled. The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from claims 17 and 23. Accordingly, all claims should be in condition for allowance.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner states that claims 18, 19, 24 and 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claims 17 and 23 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 18 and 24. Therefore, all claims should be in condition for allowance.

NEW CLAIMS

New claims 33 and 34 are added. These claims are substantially similar to claims 17/19 and 23/25 as originally filed. Favorable consideration of these new claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the

Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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